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Stephanie McGeary (/author/stephanie-mcgeary) / Monday, March 2 (/2020/mar/02/) @ 4:24 p.m. / Community (/categories/community/), Food (/categories/food/)

Food For People Throws Out $38,000 Worth of Food, Searches for New Location Following Last Week's Devastating Sewage Spill

Images by Andrew Goff

PREVIOUSLY: (UPDATE) Well, Crap: Sewage Spill in Eureka Forces Food For People to Close Temporarily ((UPDATE) Well, Crap: Sewage Spill in Eureka Forces Food For People to Close Temporarily)

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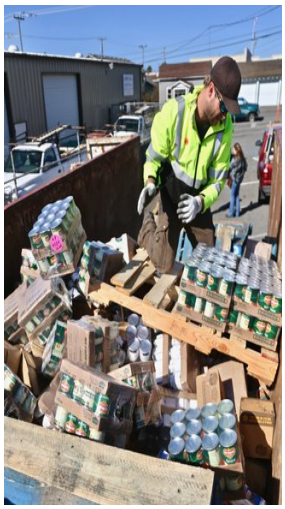
It's a sad scene at the nonprofit food bank Food for People's Eureka headquarters today, as the staff throws away thousands of dollars worth of food ruined by a massive sewage spill last week that forced the location to temporarily close.

Food For People Executive Director Anne Holcomb told the *Outpost* this afternoon that staff is still tallying up the damage, but have established, so far, a total of $38,000 in food losses alone. This doesn't include the costs of the biohazard cleanup or damage to the building, which is still being evaluated.

Recently

Hundreds of Students Descend Upon HSU for Fall Semester; Dorm Residents Expected to Self-Quarantine for 14 days, Receive Multiple COVID-19 Tests, HSU Says
1:30 p.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2020/aug/16/hundreds-students-descend-upon-hsu-fall-semester-a/)
CHP: Hit and Run No Injuries at 0 Highway 36
12:55 p.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/chpwatch/2020/aug/16/200816HM000
CHP: Live or Dead Animal at Us-199
12:48 p.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/chpwatch/2020/aug/16/200816HM000
FoPD: PETTY THEFT -- 600 Block of 11TH ST
12:39 p.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/patrolled/fortuna/2020/aug/16/#inciden
490875)

“Something that’s somewhat fortunate is it’s the beginning of the month,” Holcomb told the *Outpost*, desperate to find a silver lining in this disaster. Holcomb said that people are generally most in need of the food bank’s services toward the end of the month, when money tends to be tight.



A New Life Service Co. worker assists in preparing food for disposal

The building — on Summer and Fourteenth Streets — has been closed since Friday morning, when the sewage overflow was discovered. It was later revealed that the sewage had gotten into the walls, damaging about two-thirds of the building, including the choice pantry holding most of the fresh food.

By the time public works arrived on Friday morning the issue had “resolved itself,” Eureka Public Works Director Brian Gerving told the *Outpost*. Gerving said he’s fairly certain the issue was caused by a blockage of some kind, but the cause is still under investigation.

“It’s relatively unusual that the problem resolves itself,” Gerving told the *Outpost* over the phone today. “Usually there is something that needs to be corrected by our team when we get there.”

Until the cause can be determined, it is uncertain if Food For People or the City of Eureka’s insurance will be responsible for covering the damage. Either way, Food For People will have to initially foot the bill for New Life Service Co., which is taking care of the cleanup.

To make matters worse, Holcomb told the *Outpost* she just learned that their insurance has a $30,000 cap for coverage of water and sewage damage — a disheartening number when the organization has already calculated more than that amount in food losses alone.

But Holcomb said that Eureka city staff and the community have been incredibly helpful. Several city council members and Mayor Susan Seaman — who also volunteers for the food bank — are doing everything they can to help Food for People find an alternative temporary location in Eureka. Holcomb said that the organization is also working to assemble “emergency bags” of food to have available immediately when they find a new spot.

If you would like to help Food For People during this difficult time, you can donate at this link. (https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E86105&id=6) Holcomb said that many people have been reaching out with food donations, but until the organization has found another location, only monetary donations can be accepted.

FoPD: ANIMAL DETAINED -- 600 Block of 11TH ST
12:10 p.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/patrolled/fortuna/2020/aug/16/#inciden
490870)
CHP: Hit and Run No Injuries at Anchor Way and Starfish Way
11:49 a.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/chpwatch/2020/aug/16/200816HM000
EPD: SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE -- 1400 Block of BROADWAY ST
11:41 a.m.
(https://lostcoastoutpost.com/patrolled/eureka/2020/aug/16/#inciden
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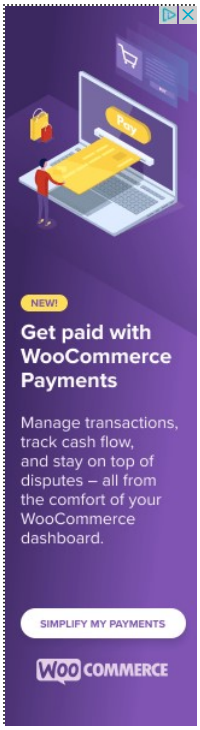
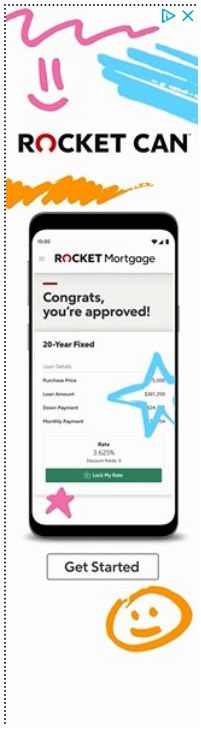
MORE → (/timeline/)





“Until we have everything mitigated here, we can’t really accept donations of food,” Holcomb said. “We really appreciate those offers, we’re just asking that people hold off for now.”

Food For People Executive Director Anne Holcomb

All this food must be thrown away

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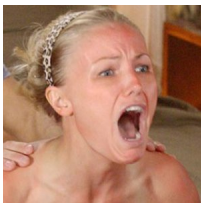

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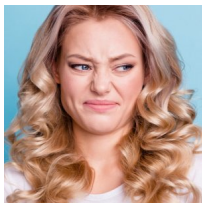

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Robin Lovejoy • 5 months ago

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susanrosso ➦ Something's Fishy • 5 months ago

The canned food is perfectly edible if the outer surfaces of the cans are cleaned. This is a ridiculous waste, evidence of a too-rich society.

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colettahughes • 5 months ago

This is so sad :(

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Elliott Smith • 5 months ago

The food is in cans and most look clean, or cleanable. The City of Eureka should pay something for the damage too, if the problem wasn't in the building itself and the lines backed up. If The Food Bank is going to have insurance, they should have enough coverage too. How many feet of sewage was in the building anyhow?

• Reply • Share ›

Carlisle Estey • 5 months ago

Most of Eureka sewer hookups are nearly a century old. They've had to buy homes and businesses flooded by massive amounts of sewage, I remember one on H Street and a dentist office on Buhne St.

Media needs to research these losses and other damages filed at the Elk River treatment plant.

The city needs to step-up to put this group back on its feet, just as it has made other victims whole.

• Reply • Share ›

Claudia Johnson • 5 months ago

The food drive to the post office does it's always great and I always donate maybe dish everyone should try to donate a little more

• Reply • Share ›

SolarBozo • 5 months ago • edited

Ways to donate:

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